

V. *Description of Bos Frontalis, a new Species, from India.* · By
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Read March 2, and May 4, 1802.

BOS FRONTALIS.

Bos nigro-cærulescens, fasciâ frontali griseâ, cornibus crassis
 remotis brevibus, caudâ subnudâ gracili apice pilosâ.

TAB. IV.

Obs. Vellus molle. Juba nulla. Labium inferius apice
 album, pilis hispidis setosum. Fascia frontis plumbea,
 bases cornuum includens. Cornua pallida.

I received from Sir Joseph Banks the first information of this species, which lately arrived from India, having been sent by the Marquis Wellesley to David Scott, Esq.; and is now in the possession of Mr. Brookes in the New Road, where I saw it. It is, probably, a native of the mountainous parts of that country, and appears perfectly new. In that excellent work of General Zoology lately published by Dr. Shaw, which contains more species, and better arranged, than any work extant, it is not mentioned. The animal appears to be between two and three years old, very tame and inoffensive. A cow of the same species was coming over with it, but died on the passage. This is all we can learn at present relating to this animal.

Soon after the drawing was taken the animal died, to all appearance owing to the change of climate. A dissection of it was made by Mr. Brookes, surgeon, in Blenheim-street; who has been so kind as to favour me with the following measurements:

From the tip of the nose to the end of the tail, 9 feet 2 inches.

From the tip of the hoof of the fore foot to the top of the rising of the back, 4 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

The girth of the largest part of the abdomen, 5 feet 7 inches.

From the tip of the hoof of the hind leg to the highest part of the rump, $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

From the top of the forehead to the end of the nose, 1 foot 9 inches.

Girth of the head over the angle of the jaws, 2 feet $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

From the tip of one horn to the other, 1 foot $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The length of the horn externally, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The girth of the horn at its largest part, 1 foot 1 inch.

In a letter with which I have been favoured by George Harris, Esq. respecting this animal, he writes as follows:

“ DEAR SIR,

“ I have before me your note, with the drawing, which undoubtedly appears to me to be the figure of the animal I mentioned to have in my possession. Some parts of the drawing seem to be rather too much enlarged, as the base of the horns, and the rising between the fore shoulders.

“ The animal I described to you, and which I have kept and reared these last seven years, and know by the name of the *Gyall*, is a native of the hills to the north-east and east of the Company's province of Chittagong in Bengal, inhabiting that range of hills which separates it from the country of Arracan.

“ The

“ The male Gyall is like our bull in shape and appearance, but, I conceive, not quite so tall; is of a blackish brown colour; the horns short, but thick and strong towards the base, round which, and across the frons, the hair is bushy and of a dirty white colour; the chest and fore-hand are broad and thick. He is naturally very bold, and will defend himself against any of the beasts of prey.

“ The female differs a little in appearance: her horns are not quite so large, and her make is somewhat more slender: she is very quiet, is used for all the purposes of the dairy, as also (I have been informed by the natives) for tilling the ground, and is more tractable than the buffalo. The milk, which these cows give, has a peculiar richness in it, arising, I should conceive, from their mode of feeding, which is always on the young shoots and branches of trees in preference to grass.

“ I constantly made it a practice to allow them to range abroad, amongst the hills and jungles at Chittagong, during the day, to browse, a keeper attending to prevent their straying so far as to endanger losing them. They do not thrive in any part of Bengal so well as in the afore-mentioned province and in the adjoining one, Tipperah, where I believe the animal is also to be found.

“ I have heard of one instance of a female Gyall breeding with a common bull.

“ I wish it were in my power to give you more particulars, but I am describing entirely from memory.”